

Appendix 2:

PMWHR 2006 Sealed Bid Adoption

Introduction

Due to the national exposure of the wild horses on the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range (PMWHR), there is a broad geographical array of public interested in adoption opportunities for these horses. The selection of the competitive sealed bid process this year allows for fair public participation in the bidding process. It is anticipated that 22 wild horses from the Pryors will be available for adoption in 2006. The primary intent of the Billings Field Office (BiFO) is to ensure approved long-term adoptive homes for every excess and available horse. **Exact timing of the adoption will be determined by the completion of bait-trapping efforts. Further details will be communicated to the public via a press release.** Questions may be directed to the PMWHR Adoption Coordinator, Nancy Bjelland at 406-896-5222.

Viewing Horses for Adoption

Each horse determined excess and removed from the PMWHR during 2006 bait-trapping efforts will be held at the Britton Springs Administrative Site, at the base of the Pryors, upon removal from the range. During the month of September, 2006, the Britton Springs facility will be open to the public from 5pm to 7pm, Monday through Friday and from 10am to 2pm on the weekends (Saturday and Sunday). This will provide for public viewing of the horses on site prior to adoption. Appointments for viewing horses outside of these posted times may be made based on employee availability and for unusual circumstances only. The facility will not be open on any federal holidays. BLM employees at the Britton Springs facility will be available to answer general questions regarding individual horses during these times and can be reached by calling 307-548-2706.

Advertising Horses for Adoption

In order to nationally advertise the availability of these horses, photos of available Pryor horses will be posted on the national BLM internet adoption program site (<https://www.blm.gov/adoptahorse/onsitegallery.php>), under the heading "BRITTON SPRINGS", during the month of September, 2006. This will allow for national viewing of all horses available for adoption. These horses will only be available by sealed bid and are not part of any internet adoption program. Sealed bid forms can be downloaded as a PDF file from this website. Information on individual horses will also be posted on this website. Any additional questions may be directed to employees at the Britton Springs facility (307-548-2706).

Acceptance of Sealed Bids

Sealed bids will be accepted from the public for all excess horses. Forms for submitting sealed bids can be obtained after September 1, 2006. These forms can be downloaded as a PDF file from the above website or by contacting the BiFO. All sealed bids must be postmarked by September 30, 2006 and sent only to the BiFO, BLM, 5001 Southgate Drive, Billings, Mt, 59101-4669. Any interested public must make application for adoption through the Billings Field Office in advance of submitting sealed bids. No bids

will be accepted from public who do not have pre-approved adoption applications on file with the BiFO.

Sealed Bid Process

Minimum sealed bids that will be accepted for any PMWHR horse will be \$125. A pre-approved adopter may only submit one sealed bid per individual horse. A pre-approved adopter may submit bids on the number of horses for which their application has been approved. Any adopter, who submits more than one bid per horse or bids on more horses than for which they have been approved, will be immediately disqualified from adopting any Pryor horses in the 2006 adoption. No exceptions.

Determination of High Bid

Once the bidding period is closed, the BLM will open and catalogue all sealed bids. Individual horses will be available to the pre-approved adopter who submitted the highest bid for that horse. All high bidders will be contacted by the BLM by telephone. If any high bidding adopter subsequently refuses the horse, then the animal will automatically be available to the next highest bidder as long as bids do not drop below \$125 per animal. If an individual horse is refused by all bidders, then it will be treated as an unadopted horse (see below).

Tied Bids

Any tied bids will be handled on a case by case basis. The tied high bidders would be contacted by the BLM and provided a 24 hour period to offer a revised and increased bid for the horse. In the event that both bidders are not interested in increasing their bids, those bidders will forfeit their bids on the horse and the horse will be offered to the next highest and pre-approved bidder.

Payment for Adopted Horses

Payment for the adopted horse must be coordinated through BiFO and made by the time the horse is picked-up at the Britton Springs facility. Certified checks, money orders and/or personal checks may be made payable to USDI-BLM. Credit cards may be accepted over the phone by calling the adoption coordinator at BiFO (406-896-5222). Adopters must be prepared to pay for necessary brand inspections at the time the animal is picked up.

Picking-Up Adopted Horses

All adopted horses must be picked up at the Britton Springs Administrative Site by the successful adopter, within 2 weeks of notification of successful bidding. Any animal not picked up, for any reason, within this time period will be forfeited by the adopter and made available to the next highest bidder. All horses must be transported using BLM approved transport methods and trailers (see requirements below).

Gelding Vouchers

BLM will pay \$50.00 toward the gelding of any 4-8 year old stallions adopted consistent with national policy (Washington Office IM No.2006-074). To qualify for the reimbursement you must receive a voucher from BiFO and submit the voucher plus a

copy of the veterinarian's bill to BiFO. The bill must be signed by the veterinarian and must identify the freemark number of the horse that was gelded. Vouchers are not available for yearling colts and are valid only for 11 months from the date of adoption. The adopter assumes responsibility for payment of the veterinarian bill.

Unadopted Horses

Any horses not adopted by sealed bid will be sent to the BLM Rock Springs, Wyoming holding facility. Older (4-8 years old) unadopted stallions would be gelded and provided 90-120 days of ground and halter-training. All remaining horses will subsequently be made available to the public again via the BLM internet adoption program.

Adoption Requirements

All Adopters Must:

- Be 18 years of age or older
- Have no prior violations of adoption regulations or convictions of inhumane treatment to animals.
- Keep no more than 4 untitled animals at one facility at any time without written permission.
- Have received a Certificate of Title for all eligible animals previously adopted.
- Be financially able to properly house, feed, and provide veterinary and farrier care for the animal(s).

Facilities:

Facilities for holding horses must be within the United States until a Certificate of Title is issued to the adopter following one year of humane care. Adopted horses may be inspected at any time until the title is issued. Facilities may be inspected prior to or after adoption and must meet the following requirements before your application will be approved:

- A corral with a minimum of 400 square feet (20x20) per animal. Corral should not be too large (more than 50x50), as animals are easier to gentle in smaller corrals.
- All fences and gates must be at least 6 feet high for wild horses over the age of 18 months. Five foot high fences are allowed for yearlings.
- Fencing material should be 2x6 inch wooden planks spaced no more than one foot apart, rounded pipes, poles, or similar materials that do not pose a hazard to the animal. Small mesh, heavy gauge, woven wire fencing with a 2x6 inch board along the top, center and bottom is acceptable. No barb wire, no electric wire, no T-posts are allowed for corral construction. Once gentled, the animals may be maintained in pastures or in box stalls with daily turnout.

Shelters can be a three-sided shed or box stall in barn, allowing animal to move freely between the corral and shelter. Shelter or stall space should be at least 12 X 12 feet per animal.

Transportation:

- Adopters must provide their own vehicles or make private arrangements.
- Standard covered stock trailers and horse trailers large enough for 4 or more horses are generally acceptable, contingent on final approval prior to loading.
- NO 1-HORSE or TWO-HORSE TRAILERS. Animals will ride loose and must have enough space to turn around. No pick ups with stock racks.
- Lengthwise and slant-load dividers must be removed.
- NO DROP RAMP TAIL GATES ARE ALLOWED

Halters:

- Halters will be put on the animal by the BLM staff or contractor if requested, and must be provided by adopters.